

**FREE**

# Sheffield TIMES

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New: Healing Arts, page 17

Community News for Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA SECOND GENERATION Vol. IX, Issue 6 July/August 2010

## CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON NEW SENIOR CENTER

According to the Town census, there are more than 800 people over age 60 in Sheffield, close to 25 percent of the full-time population. Some are retired or living alone. Some have given up driving. But others are still working and may even need help and services for their own aging parents. For these reasons and many more, Sheffield residents are delighted that construction of a new center for senior services and activities has begun on a plot of land behind the American Legion Hall on Route 7 and Cook Rd. The center will also house Sheffield's Council on Aging, the town agency that runs the center and its services.

At the May 2007 town meeting, voters rejected a plan that was to be funded solely with town funds. The Board of Selectmen then appointed a Senior Center Building Committee to revise the design and find funding sources. The Committee proposed a relatively simple design, with interior space dominated by a "great room" to give maximum flexibility in use and accommodate 80 people for large events. It would



Construction begins for the new Senior Center, behind the American Legion Hall on Cook Rd. Here, excavations on the Route 7 side of the Legion Hall are for a new engineered septic system that will be shared by the two buildings.

also be dividable into smaller spaces by moving partitions. Surrounding the great room will be several activity and supply rooms as well as a kitchen, a nursing office, a director's office, bathrooms and a lounge.

This plan was approved by the Town when funds could be secured. Fortunately, the project received a grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the government stimulus fund, via the

Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant program. Bids went out April 1, with an estimated completion time of 240 calendar days, which would put completion sometime in December. The Salco Construction Co. of Pittsfield bid \$1,020,429 for the project and was named general contractor. Joe Wilkinson Excavation of Sheffield was named the sub-contractor of excavation. The Berkshire Housing Development Corporation is administering the grant money.

Because bids came in higher than expected, three aspects of the project were left out and will have to be finished

*Continued on page 7*

### TOWN ELECTION RESULTS

In the only contested race in the town elections on May 10, Susan Young retained her position as Library Trustee, beating David Pottle 319 to 190. David Smith, Jr., faced no opponent in his second try for the Board of Selectmen and was elected with 441 votes.

Bruce Person faced no opponent and was re-elected Moderator with 445 votes. The two candidates running for Planning Board were re-elected: Margaret Martin with 306 votes and David Smith, Sr., with 410 votes.

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## Sheffield TIMES

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Working since 2001 to foster communication  
among the people, businesses and organizations  
of Sheffield and Ashley Falls

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School, 3; Kathy Orlando, 2, 3, 4, 17, 18, 19. Police  
Dept., 14. Joanna Jennings, 20. The Trustees of the  
Reservations, 21, 23, 24.



Selectman Julie Hannum  
presents Dave Macy with a  
placque honoring his 34 years  
of service to the Town, includ-  
ing as a volunteer fireman,  
Planning Board member and,  
most recently, as a Selectman.  
Current and former employees  
and board and committee mem-  
bers joined Dave and his family  
to share memories and stories  
at the event held at The Bridge  
restaurant on June 24.

## SUPPORT THE SHEFFIELD TIMES!

If you haven't sent in your contribution, do it now! See page 27.

AND THANK YOU!

Thanks to all our loyal and generous supporters! You keep us going.

If we missed you in this issue, we'll catch you in the next.

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**September/October  
issue deadline:  
August 15**



## BERKSHIRE CHORAL FESTIVAL HAS NEW SHEFFIELD VENUE

After almost three decades of performing in an old hockey rink, the 200-voice-strong Berkshire Choral Festival is moving to a new one.

Since the Festival's founding in 1982, its venue has been the semi-open-air Rovensky Concert Shed at Berkshire School. As a result, while enjoying the heavenly music of Bach, Mendelssohn, Brahms, et al., patrons have had to endure the earthly realities of mosquitoes, sweltering heat, distant parking and portable toilets.

Last year, Berkshire School unveiled the new Jackman L. Stewart Athletic Center. Named in memory of an iconic coach and local jazz legend, the facility includes two hockey rinks. The

smaller of these, in which Berkshire School held its alumni reunion and Prize Night ceremonies in May, will be transformed into a concert setting complete with stage, acoustical shell and a seating capacity of 1,000.

Music lovers can now avail themselves of air conditioning, indoor plumbing and ample parking. The Festival Box Office shares the same building, and the Sheffield Kiwanis Club, which heretofore operated out of a trailer outside the old facility, will serve refreshments in the Stewart Center's snack bar. Meanwhile, the conductor and soloists will have their own private quarters via the locker rooms and officials' rooms.

"We're excited," says Frank Nemhauser, the Festival's music director since 1993. "We all have fond memories of Rovensky, but I think this new facility will be really terrific."

The Festival, which begins its 2010 season in Montreal and ends it in Scheggino, Italy, will present four Saturday night concerts in Sheffield, from July 17 through August 7. On tap will be works by Handel, Haydn, Brahms, Bizet and other masters of the medium. Renowned soloists are accompanied by choristers from across the country and around the world and led by world-famous conductors.

For schedule and ticket information, visit [www.chorus.org](http://www.chorus.org) or phone 229-1999.

—James Harris



*Berkshire School's athletic center, a new indoor home for the choral festival.*

## MT. EVERETT'S CASSIE URICCHIO NAMED TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Cassie Uricchio, biology teacher and FFA advisor at Mt. Everett Regional High School, has been named 2010 Teacher of the Year by Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom. Administrators, colleagues and students, as well as farmers wrote letters to support her nomination which was coordinated by the Sheffield Land Trust.

Cited as "a terrific ambassador for agriculture in the classroom," Uricchio has added agricultural biology and other related courses to Mt. Everett's curriculum. She has coordinated the Agricultural Education Advisory Committee to bring farmer and community member expertise into the program, and encouraged other teachers to pursue agricultural courses and a school garden. She also helped students revive the FFA (Future Farmers of America) chapter, which had been defunct for decades but now has over two dozen students involved.

One of the FFA projects, in partnership with the school's vocational program, has been the construction of a new barn on the campus, to house the FFA and agricultural education program's animals. Uricchio also brought back the school's annual Agricultural Fair, which will be held in the Fall this year to coincide with the completion of the barn.



*At the ceremony: Glenn DeVoti, principal of Mt. Everett Regional High School; Rene Wood, Sheffield Selectman; Tony Gulotta, of Gulotta Brothers Mobil station (which donated \$750 to the FFA program as part of its annual gift to the school); Uricchio; Jim Larkin, Sheffield farmer and Agricultural Commission member; Dennis Sears, Sheffield representative on the School Committee; Paul O'Brien (at back), the school's technology coordinator, retiring this year and also honored; Rhett Proctor, Egremont farmer and Agricultural Commission member (who suggested the nomination and wrote the farmer letter of support); Melissa Guerrero, MA Dept. of Agricultural Resources and Board member of MA Agriculture in the Classroom (who presented the award); and Kerry Sullivan, aide to State Representative Smitty Pignatelli (who also brought the legislative citation on behalf of State Senator Ben Downing).*

The honor was awarded at a ceremony on June 7 at the school, where she also receive a citation from the Legislature.

Uricchio has a degree in animal sciences from the University of Connecticut and a master's in agricultural education from

North Carolina State University (NC-SU). She will be on a leave of absence for the coming academic year because NCSU asked her to return to fill a one-year teaching vacancy with a full scholarship to complete her PhD.



### UPDATE ON SHEFFIELD WATER CO.

The drinking fountains donated to the Town by the Sheffield Water Co. have been installed, one on the Town Green and the other in the Town Park. The company decided to dedicate the fountains to the memory of Dana Bartholomew, who had been president of the company before his death in 2005. "Dana lived his life dedicated to the Water Co. and to Sheffield," said Beth Bartholomew, company president and Dana's widow. "He would be pleased with this project."

The company received word from the Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection that it has been approved to borrow \$991,000 from the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust at a 2 percent interest rate. With that loan—usually given only to municipalities, not private companies—the company's rate increase can be significantly lower than first thought—84 percent, as opposed to 153 percent. On June 25, the company received word from the state Dept. of Public Utilities approving the lesser increase.

With that funding, the company plans to add a new storage tank and upgrade several water mains. Work is expected to begin as soon as permitting and preliminaries are completed.

"We would like to remind our customers to not waste water during these warm summer days," said Beth. "Our storage capacity is limited to one reservoir until we can add the tank."



### GARDEN PARTY BENEFITS SHEFFIELD TIMES

On June 19, more than 70 people came to celebrate the Sheffield Times and enjoy Grace Brown's gardens around Ashley Pond, formerly the Ashley Falls Marble Quarry.

The party, with a theme of "Black and White and Read All Over," was organized by Pamela Bloodworth and Gillian Hettinger as a benefit for the *Sheffield Times*. With donations, a silent auction of goods ranging from local art to local corn and a sale of Sheffield mums, some \$2,000 was raised.

With some very generous donations received in the past couple of months, we've come a long way toward meeting the goal of the *Sheffield Times* Annual Appeal of \$20,000. Through mid-June, contributions and the benefit receipts totalled \$13,500.

The *Sheffield Times* thanks all our generous supporters! If you'd like to help, see the coupon on page 27.



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## SHEFFIELD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION RE-AWAKENS

Something new is coming to Sheffield's business community. Or rather, something old is coming back. Tony Gulotta is leading a group of friends and associates to revive the long-defunct business association. "A lot of us go way back," says Tony. "John Cowen of the Sheffield Pottery is working on it with me, and our fathers formed the first association." Back then, it was called the Sheffield Businessmen's Association, but the group will now more inclusively be called the Sheffield Business Association.

The first association faded away years ago. Tony has been thinking for quite a while about reviving it. "My father did it for years," he says, "and it was good for local businesses and good for the community. I've been talking about this with friends all winter."

First and foremost, Tony sees the association as a way for Sheffield's small business people to gain the clout of a group to negotiate better health insurance rates. "I insure five people, and that costs me a full-time employee salary," he says. "Maybe I could hire another person if it weren't so expensive." Blue Cross/Blue Shield and other insurers require a minimum of 47 people to be in a business group, which is a "very achievable number," he says.

When Tony posted a sign-up list at Gulotta Brothers' gas station, 30 businesses signed up. In May, he arranged for State Representative Smitty Pignatelli, Julie Hannum, Town Selectman, and Joe Kellogg, Town Administrator, to meet with interested business people at Town Hall.

On June 16, a more formal meeting was held to begin agreeing on some ground rules. Only small businesses, with 100 or fewer employees—even just one employee—will be eligible to join. To start, dues will be \$50 (down the road, dues might be set according to the size of the business.) Officers were elected: Scott Rote of Wheeler and Taylor is treasurer; Sue Streeter, owner of the Shear Image hair salon is secretary; John Cowen of Sheffield Pottery is vice chair; and Tony is chairman. An agenda for the next meeting was set, and it includes necessary legal steps like getting set up as a nonprofit and adopting bylaws. "It's so complicated, we're hoping a lawyer joins us soon," Tony says.

In addition to giving local businesses better bargaining power for health insurance, the organization could also negotiate better rates on workmen's compensation and utilities. "If we get big and strong enough," Tony says, "we can save on these

things, which helps the community in the long run. Now that we have Smitty involved, we'll have a bigger voice. He's helped small business before."

Tony has broader goals for the group than simply helping local businesses with insurance rates. "The business association could be a way to try to raise some money and give back to the community," he says. "We can help keep Sheffield strong, and the kids will want to come back and live here. I'd like to see us raise money for scholarships for technical school or other things that are business-oriented." He added, "I'm very community-oriented."

"I think we'll have at least 30 members to start with," says Tony. "The businesses represent a good variety. We have farmers, loggers, a lumber business, carpenters, pottery and landscapers." Down the road, he envisions having associate members, people whose offices are in other towns but who do business in Sheffield, as a way to broaden the professions represented.

Right now the Association has 10 or so members who are "very committed." According to records at Town Hall, there are 290 registered businesses in town, and a letter will soon go to all of them inviting their participation.

"We'll be meeting on the third Wednesday of every month at The Bridge Restaurant," Tony says. "They're excited to have us. Anybody can come."

Those interested in finding out more about the Sheffield Business Association can call Tony at 229-2304. —Ellen Weiss

### PASTEL - WATERCOLOR- OIL PAINTINGS

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The Dewey Hall Folk Series is taking a break for July and August, when Dewey Hall is used for art shows. Coming in September: local favorite Bobby Sweet.

## ART & ARTISTS NEWS

**Housatonic Valley Art League summer shows.** The annual Art League juried show will take place at Dewey Hall in Sheffield from Thurs., July 15, to Sun., Aug. 8, with a reception on Fri., July 16, from 4:30 to 6:00pm. Jurors are Leslie Lillien Levy and Dick McEvoy.

The annual member show follows in the same location, from Thurs., Aug. 12, to Mon., Sept. 6, with a reception on Fri., Aug. 3, at the same time as the reception for the juried show. Jurors are John Wood and Jean Stover.

For show prospectuses, see the website at [www.hvart.org](http://www.hvart.org).

**Call for artists.** The Housatonic Valley Art League is joining with the Sheffield and Egremont Land Trusts in an arts project to celebrate and benefit the land trusts' "Corridor Project," which is seeking to conserve land in northwest Sheffield and southern Egremont. Artists are welcome to submit work of that area for "Images from the Fields," a show to be held in October. Proceeds benefit artists and the Corridor project.

The Art League has been holding "paint outs" at various locations in the corridor this summer to help artists prepare works for the show, and more are planned for the Saturdays in July and Aug. 7. For details on the paint outs and a map of the corridor with some good painting spots marked and more information

about the show, go to [www.hvart.org](http://www.hvart.org) and click on the box on the lower left. For more on the conservation project, see page 18.

**Meeting House Gallery.** The Meeting House Gallery is in the large white church on the green in New Marlborough. The gallery is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 11am to 4pm.

It will hold two shows this summer. From July 24 through Aug. 22, an invitational exhibition entitled "Textures" will feature 33 local artists who work in many different mediums. The opening reception is on Fri., July 23, from 5 to 7pm.

The second exhibit is for New Marlborough artists only, from Aug. 28 through Sept. 26. All are welcome to attend the opening reception on Fri., Aug. 27, also from 5 to 7pm.

—Marcia Friedman

**The 14th Colony.** A recently formed group, The 14th Colony, is active in the Millerton area and represents more than 65 visual artists in the TriState area. It had its first show in the old David Gavin space near the railroad station at the beginning of May and will continue to show local artists' works in that space.

Shows are planned for July 3 through July 25 and in late August through Labor Day weekend. The group also hopes to mount a show as part of the Sharon Arts & Craft Fair on Aug. 7. —M.F.

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July 17 8pm Handel—*Judas Maccabeus*

July 24 8pm Morten Lauridsen—*Lux Aeterna* and Haydn—*Paukenmesse*

July 31 8pm All-Brahms Evening: *Schicksalslied*, *Geistlicheslied*, *Nänie*, *Triumphlied*, *Academic Festival Overture*, and movements from the *Liebeslieder Waltzes*

August 7 8pm Poulenc—*Gloria*, Rutter—*Te Deum* and Bizet—*Te Deum*

## BERKSHIRE CHORAL FESTIVAL

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245 North Undermountain Road Sheffield, Massachusetts 01257 [www.choralfest.org](http://www.choralfest.org)



## OLD PARISH'S ANTIQUES SHOW WILL BE BIGGER THAN EVER

If the Old Parish ladies who put together the first antiques show were to come back and see how their idea has grown, they would be amazed. The longest-running antique show in Massachusetts will take place for its 62<sup>nd</sup> year from Aug. 6 to 8 at Mt. Everett Regional High School and the adjoining Undermountain Elementary School. The show is a benefit for Old Parish Church.

Sandra Alden, dealer coordinator,

says that space has been found to accommodate dealers new to the show by using the schools' cafeterias and the space in between. Altogether, the show expects some 30 dealers.

Shoppers will find furniture, paintings, jewelry, rugs, pottery, textiles and accessories, in country and formal styles. Church members and friends also provide lunches, home-baked goods, homegrown vegetables and a

daily luncheon. The Old Parish Quilters will show their 18<sup>th</sup> annual raffle quilt. This year's queen/king beauty is called "Garden Paths".

The space is comfortably air conditioned, and there's plenty of free parking. Show hours are 10am-5pm on Friday and Saturday and 10am-4pm on Sunday. Lunch is served daily from 11:30am to 2pm. Admission is \$6. For information, call 229-8173. —Marion Whitman

## NEW SENIOR CENTER, *continued from page 1*

by the Town: the final paving of the parking lot; the finishing of the basement; and the installation of cabinets, except in the kitchen. This means the Council on Aging and the Friends of the Senior Center will need to find funds and grants to fully furnish and equip the building.

As of the end of June, a lot of work had taken place. The lot had been cleared, a fence put up and a mobile office moved in. The engineered septic system that the

center will share with the American Legion has been installed, adding several feet of height to the area between the American Legion and Route 7. And the foundation has been poured.

Pauline Schumann, president of the Friends, is thrilled. "I was so excited to watch the trees come down. That means it's really happening. We are going to have a senior activity building. The next thing to watch for is the sign that says 'Future Home of the Sheffield Senior Center!'"

—John Wightman



Trees are removed from the construction site.

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Anniversary  
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## The Sheffield Farmers Market

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## CHURCH NEWS

### Trinity United Methodist

Trinity United Methodist Church in Ashley Falls is having its 45<sup>th</sup> annual chicken barbeque on July 3 from 4 to 7pm. It will be served both as a sit-down dinner and available for takeout. Come for good food and good company!

### Sheffield Food Program

Apologies to those who bring food to the Berkshire Bank branch in Sheffield when there's no room in the barrel. We do need the food and will pick it up.

The program has a constant need for pasta sauce, cereals and peanut butter. We also love those impulse purchases that you brought home from the store and then decide you don't really want to eat!

## DISCUSSION ON ETHICS IN HUMAN GENETICS

Should genetic screening be allowed? Can we really make "designer" babies? Those and other issues involved in human genetics will be explored at 7:30pm on Wed., Aug. 11, at Old Parish Church in Sheffield. Leading the discussion will be Dr. Bruce Wightman. Audience questions and discussion will be encouraged. The program is free and open to all.

Wightman, a professor of biology at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA, received his Ph.D. from Harvard University. He is currently director of Muhlenberg College's 2010 Center for Ethics program which will focus on science as a human endeavor. He is the son of Sheffield's John and Marilyn Wightman.

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES

### ASHLEY FALLS

**Greenwoods Community Church** (non-denominational), 355 Clayton Rd. 229-8560; parsonage (860) 824-7442. Sunday: 9:30am Sunday School (ages 3-adult); 10:30am Worship Service, nursery care provided. Rev. Edward M. Eastman Jr., Pastor

**Trinity Methodist (United Methodist)**, 1156 Ashley Falls Rd. Sunday: 9am Service. Betty LeGeyt, Pastor

### GREAT BARRINGTON

**Congregation Ahavath Shalom** (reconstructionist), North St. 528-4197. Friday, 8pm & Saturday, 10am. Services not held every week. Schedules are updated on answering machine

**Hevreh of Southern Berkshire**, 270 State Rd. 528-6378. Friday: 7:30pm Shabbat Service. Saturday: 10am Shabbat service & Torah study. Rabbi Deborah Zecher, Associate Rabbi Ari Rosenberg

### SHEFFIELD

**Christ Church Episcopal & Trinity Lutheran**, 180 Main St. 229-8811. Sunday: 8am & 10am Holy Eucharist; 10am Sunday School & child care; Thursday: 10am Holy Eucharist & Healing. Rev. Anne Ryder

**Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses**, Route 7 & Kellogg Rd. 229-8649. The public is welcome.

**Old Parish** (United Church of Christ), 125 Main St. 229-8173. Sunday: 10am Worship, Sunday School, 10am. Rev. Jill Graham, Pastor

**Our Lady of the Valley (Catholic)**, Maple Ave. 229-3028. Saturday: 4:00pm Mass; Sunday: Sheffield 7:30am, 9am Masses; Mill River 10:30 Mass. Rev. Bruce Teague

**Sheffield Chapel (non-denominational)**, 1970 N. Main St. 528-2911, [www.sheffieldchapel.org](http://www.sheffieldchapel.org). Sunday: 10:45am Worship, 9:30am Sunday School for all ages. Wed.: Group Prayer Time 7pm. Pastor: Corey McLaughlin



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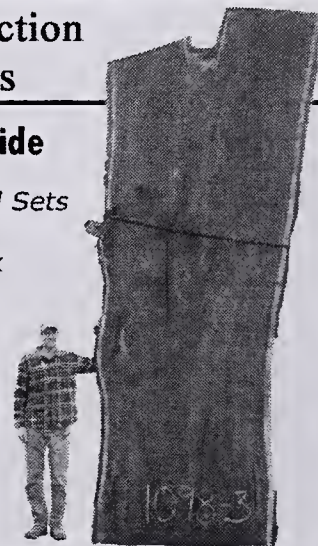
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## NEW GARDEN PATIO AT LIBRARY

At long last, the sunken garden area outside the Library's downstairs Program Room is being transformed into a truly usable space. Thanks to Tom Ingersoll, who provided the impetus, the Friends of the Bushnell Sage Library, who are providing the



funding, and with the generous help of Joe Wilkinson and Mike Johnson, there is

now curbing outlining a semicircular patio and granite steps leading up the steep slopes to the lawn and garden behind the building. Concrete for the patio floor will soon be poured, to

be followed by natural boulders on the slopes. Eventually we hope to have one or two outdoor benches as well.

When all the "hardscaping" is done, it will be time for planting. The Friends envision a garden of ornamental grasses on the steep bank. Donations of labor and/or grasses will be gratefully accepted! Call Susan Young, Library trustee, at 229-8502 —Kathy Ness

## CHRIST CHURCH/TRINITY LUTHERAN SUMMER AND FALL EVENTS

The Christ Episcopal & Trinity Lutheran 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Country Fair will be held on Sat., Aug. 7, in the church's Parish Hall and grounds at the corner of Rte. 7 and Maple Ave. The fair will include artisans and crafters from around the region and lots more: a tag sale, a bake sale, fresh produce and Wellfleet clams, a kids' fun fair and a book sale. Lunch will also be served.

The fair runs from 10am to 4pm, with the tag sale starting at 9am. For more information, call the church at 229-8811.

On Sat., Oct. 9, the Parish will hold its 11th Annual Silent Auction. The event is expected to have more than 250 lots of antiques, silver, glass and china collectibles, art, jewelry, household items and gift certificates from many Berkshire

restaurants and other venues.

At both events, raffle tickets will be sold for this year's community-made quilt, which will be awarded at the end of the auction.

The congregations have been conjoined since 2007. The 8am Sunday service is a traditional Episcopal service. The 10am one combines Episcopal and evangelical Lutheran liturgies.



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## **FROM THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MINUTES**

### ***Working meeting regarding the Annual Meeting, March 29***

The Board reviewed the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Among other items, it discussed restoration of historic records in the Town Clerk's office, the new leash law proposed in Article 27, and Article 28, which would allow the Board to join with other municipalities to discuss broadband issues.

Upon Selectman Rene Wood's suggestion, the Board agreed to have Administrator Kellogg give a brief explanation on each warrant article. It discussed expanding the hours for the Town Election and the sound system for the Town Meeting.

Chairman David Macy suggested that the Board meet with John-Arthur Miller, the director of the Senior Center, to discuss his correspondence regarding the future of the Senior Center, and a working meeting was set for April 5. Selectmen Wood said that she would like to set a Board policy on responding to correspondence addressed to the Board of Selectmen. Discussion ensued.

The Board agreed to review the new regional agreement for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District and give comments and concerns to Administrator Kellogg for forwarding to the School Committee. It also decided to accept Mike Singleton's offer to attend to a Selectmen's meeting for an update on school issues.

Selectman Wood said that she is working on two letters, one regarding wind siting and one on health care plan design. She will have drafts ready for review later this week.

### ***Working meeting regarding the Senior Center, April 5***

Administrator Kellogg gave an overview on the progress of the senior center. John-Arthur Miller, director of the Senior Center, was present and said that he has been disappointed and frustrated with his role during the designing of the center and not being included in meetings or consulted with any changes to the plans. He expressed concern at not being part of the pre-bid meeting scheduled for April 6. Kellogg noted that the meeting is for

the architect and contractors to ask questions and is not a public meeting.

Miller noted concern with the design of the window in the lobby that separates the workspace from the entry. Discussion ensued regarding a plate glass window and a sliding window. Board members explained that changes to the design are within Administrator Kellogg's responsibilities because he has been appointed as project manager and asked Administrator Kellogg to keep Miller in the loop regarding the construction.

Discussion ensued about a letter Miller had sent to the Board regarding making the Senior Center director position a full-time one. Administrator Kellogg noted that he did not believe that funding for a full time director at this point was warranted and was not included in the budget.

### ***Regular meeting, April 5***

Chairman Macy opened a public hearing on the application of Leslie Sylvan for a wine and malt innholder's license at 175 Main St. Leslie Sylvan currently has a common victualler, lodging house and antique and second-hand goods license. The bed and breakfast is not operational at this time, but she expects to open it within two months. The capacity of the bed and breakfast would be 12 guests, and it would be open 8am to 11pm. The license would be for guests only, not the public. With no opposition, the Board approved the license.

Chairman Macy read a letter from the Agricultural Commission withdrawing a request to have a waiver of the farm animal and machinery excise tax on the ballot for the town election, since not all the information requested has been obtained from the state. The Commission would like to continue to work with the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Assessors on this issue.

Milt Horowitz of 356 Miller Ave. was present to discuss his concerns with the property owned by Sheffield Water Co. He feels that the water company should not be able to receive the tax benefits of Chapter 61 since their property is being used for commercial purposes. Discussion

ensued. Administrator Kellogg will discuss this issue with the Board of Assessors.

The Board approved a curb cut for property on Shunpike Rd. owned by George Ullrich, as submitted and approved by the Police Chief and Highway Superintendent.

Selectman Julie Hannum said that Beth Bartholomew, president of the Sheffield Water Co., has invited the Board to take a tour of the water company sometime in late May. She also asked that a letter be sent to Mass Highway requesting that the crosswalks on Main St. be repainted.

Chairman Macy stated that Chapter 90 funds have been approved and the Town will soon be out to bid on road paving. He noted that the Berkshire GMC has been successful in receiving approval from General Motors to re-open its dealership.

Selectman Wood congratulated those students at Southern Berkshire Regional School District who were inducted into the National Honor Society. She said that she is working on a letter opposing the cuts to the school district's Local Technical Assistance program. The Board agreed to send this letter to State Senator Downing and State Representative Pignatelli.

Administrator Kellogg announced that the Town has received an E-Government award for the second year in a row for the Town website. An award with distinction would be given if there were a link to the School Committee minutes. Administrator Kellogg will follow up.

Administrator Kellogg said that the Senior Center project is out to bid and will be awarded on April 26. Construction will begin in May, with an estimated completion in December. [See article on page 1.]

Prior to the seminar held by the Commission on Disabilities, the Massachusetts Office on Disabilities conducted an audit of Town Hall on March 18 and recommended some minor changes. The slope at the front door is too steep, something that will be fixed when Depot Square is repaved. Administrator Kellogg congratulated the commission for a great job with the seminar.



David Smith, Jr., asked if the April 8 meeting between the Board and Solid Waste Task Force was open to the public, and Administrator Kellogg replied yes. Smith also inquired about rumors that the Transfer Station would be closed this summer. Chairman Macy stated that there has been no discussion on closing the Transfer Station—the Solid Waste Task Force voted at its first meeting that closing the Station would not be an option.

Carl Schumann asked if signs could be installed on roads stating the fines for littering. The Board will look into this. The Board agreed to ask the Kiwanis to extend its cleanup of Route 7 from Kellogg Rd. to the center of Town.

Administrator Kellogg noted that Chris Regan, business manager for the School District, is requesting volunteers for a long-range capital planning committee. Selectman Hannum volunteered to serve. If any residents are interested, they should contact Regan or the Town Administrator's office.

### ***Working meeting regarding the Solid Waste Task Force, April 8***

The Board met with the members of the Solid Waste Task Force to discuss the three reports it submitted to the Board. Chairman Macy explained that as this was a working meeting, it was not open for public input.

Chairman Macy asked for comment on each report. Task force member David Steindler said it was a unanimous consensus of the task force to keep the Transfer Station open. He said that the task force recommends staying with the current Enterprise Fund system [under which the Transfer Station operates under its own bookkeeping entity] but to increase educational information for users, as discussed in the report drafted by Greig Siedor, a task force member.

Fred Panitz, another task force member, spoke regarding the report that was signed by Peter Stiglin, Marcia Friedman, Ted Pitman and himself. Panitz said that in his opinion there was no problem with the Enterprise System as it exists and there was no reason to change it. He said that the task force had discussed several

forms of pay-as-you-throw systems of trash disposal and decided that the current system is the easiest. The current system is not broken. Its problem is that 20 percent of residents have not responded with information on how they dispose of their trash, and Panitz expressed concern that there was no followup with these residents. Several members of the task force also expressed concern with the cost of the Transfer Station stickers.

Marcia Friedman said that some of the information that the group had requested was not available, such as a history of users and the number and types of stickers sold. She feels that if the sticker fees were more affordable, more residents would use the Transfer Station.

David Smith, Sr., said he believed that a pay-as-you-throw system based on weight was the most equitable. It appears that people that are being paid to bring trash to the Transfer Station for several residents on a regular basis, and Smith expressed concern with that practice.

Greig Siedor discussed the report that he drafted regarding better educating Transfer Station users. He suggested that enforcement be reviewed and worried that there would not be enough in the Enterprise Fund to cover future capital costs.

### **PAINT AND OIL RECYCLING**

Sheffield residents can recycle old oil paint, stains, paint thinners, turpentine and waste motor oil on Wed., July 28, from 4 to 6:30pm, at the Lenox Dept. of Public Works (275 Main St. across from the Highway Dept.) and on Sat., Aug. 7, from 9 to 11:30am, at the Great Barrington Recycling Center (Rt. 7 across from Monument Mountain High School).

Latex paint is not accepted at this event. Empty or dried-up cans of latex or oil-based paint can be disposed with the regular trash. Usable paint can be given away through freecycle.org or some non-profits.

To register, call Jamie at the Center for Ecological Technology at 413-445-4556 ext. 10 or 30, email [jamiec@cetonline.org](mailto:jamiec@cetonline.org).

Bart Elsbach drafted a plan that would have the Town engage a single hauler for all residents in Town.

The Board thanked the Task Force members for their time and effort.

### ***Working meeting regarding the warrant, April 15***

The Board entered executive session for a few minutes to discuss the performance, discipline or dismissal of Town employees. When the Board returned to an open meeting, it reviewed the Town Meeting warrant. Selectman Wood recused herself from the discussion of School Committee stipends, since her spouse is a School Committee member. She inquired if the Board will review the purchase of the backhoe before the funds are spent and discussed the possibility of purchasing a used backhoe. Discussion ensued on the purchase of used equipment.

Selectman Wood inquired how the construction of the highway garage would proceed if this article is approved. Administrator Kellogg explained that the requested funds in this Article are from proceeds of the sale of land, not free cash. If the Article is approved, the goal would be to have actual bid amounts for the Annual Town Meeting in May 2011.

In discussion regarding the approval process for warrants, the Board suggested that the deadlines for zoning submissions be set earlier next year.

Selectman Hannum moved to approve and sign the Annual Town Meeting Warrant as presented, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

### ***Regular meeting, April 26***

Budget questions: Administrator Kellogg gave a presentation of the proposed FY2011 budget, which starts July 1, 2010. Dennis Sears asked about the amount for hydrants, and Kellogg explained that this is the cost for having the hydrants ready for use and available. John-Arthur Miller asked how much of the overlay surplus funds had been used in the last couple of years. Kellogg explained the use of overlay surplus and stated that \$6,500 would be released this

*Continued on page 12*



## MINUTES, continued from page 11

year. Miller would like to use some of these funds for a "senior tax workoff program." He also inquired on the balance in the Emergency Response Fund, and Kellogg said it was approximately \$5,000. Miller thanked the Board for holding the Financial Information Session.

Trudy Weaver Miller inquired about the salary increase for the Police Chief. Administrator Kellogg responded that the Chief has a contract that includes certain percentages for salary increases. Discussion ensued regarding the special legislation request that will allow Chief McGarry to continue to work past the age of 65. Miller also asked about the increase last year in veteran's benefits. Kellogg explained that the Town is obligated to provide financial assistance to veterans in need; the State will reimburse the Town 50 percent of the funds.

Pauline Schuman asked why the utility budgets for the Highway and Fire Departments were not included in the "town buildings and grounds" account like the Library's and Police Station's were. Administrator Kellogg explained that the Town does not own the Fire Station and that the Town was gradually shifting all utilities for Town-owned buildings into that account. Schumann expressed concern that the Council on Aging budget is the same as last year's Council budget when the new building will increase costs. Kellogg stated that any changes in the Council's budget will be included in the FY2012 budget because

the costs are unknown at this time.

Marcia Friedman noted that the figures for the solid waste expenditure do not reflect the work of the Solid Waste Task Force. Administrator Kellogg explained that the tipping charges are the most significant part of the budget and such charges are not known until after the service is put out to bid. Friedman expressed her concern with the high cost of the Transfer Station stickers.

Priscilla Cote inquired about the tax rate for FY2010. Administrator Kellogg noted it was \$12.22 for FY2010 and is estimated at \$12.52 for FY2011, though that may change depending on how property valuations change.

Transfer station: The Solid Waste Task Force submitted its three reports to the Board; they're posted on the Town website. Administrator Kellogg recommended that the current system of trash disposal continue for FY2011 and the sticker rate be determined after the solid waste contracts have been awarded, and the Board agreed.

Senior Center construction: Administrator Kellogg said that of the six bids received, Salco Construction from Pittsfield was the low bidder for the construction of the Senior Center, at \$1,020,429. Due to budget constraints, painting, cabinets and finish work in the basement will not be included. The Board voted to grant the contract.

Selectman Wood stated that John-Arthur Miller, the Senior Center director, is

working on a groundbreaking ceremony. Kellogg noted that a meeting of the Building Committee will be scheduled within the next week.

Other business: The Board appointed Maryann Hyatt to the Commission on Disabilities.

Laura Marks from The Nature Conservancy was present to present an overview on the conservation restriction requested for property on Undermountain Rd., which the Board then approved.

Jennifer Wheeler has requested to hold her wedding at the Covered Bridge on Oct.10. The number of guests will be approximately 120. There will be no food or decorations at the ceremony. Discussion ensued. The Board voted to obtain information from Chief Jim McGarry regarding traffic control before granting approval.

Selectman Hannum noted that this was Chairman Macy's last regularly scheduled Selectman's meeting after 14 years of service on the Board. She thanked him for his expertise and service to the Town. Macy said that those years have been a learning experience and he has had fun. He thanked the Town employees and fellow Board members for their support, which made his job easier. Selectman Wood thanked him for the learning opportunity he has given her over the past year. Administrator Kellogg thanked him for his support and wished him well.

Chairman Macy noted that there are some erosion issues on Rannapo Rd. Administrator Kellogg said that three quotes for remedying the problem were: Tighe and Bond, Inc., \$11,900; Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc., \$7,500; Jeffrey F. Collingwood, PE, \$4,995. Kellogg recommended that the work be awarded to Collingwood, and the Board so voted. Selectman Hannum stated to avoid any appearance of impropriety she wanted the minutes to reflect that Collingwood was her first cousin.

### Working meetings regarding Sheffield Plastics, April 28 & May 3

The Board voted to designate the Silver St. and Salisbury Rd. properties of Bayer Material Sciences, LLC, as Economic Opportunity Areas. Administrator Kellogg then gave an overview of how a tax increment financing agree-

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ment would work between the Town and Sheffield Plastics.

Dennis Duff from Sheffield Plastics explained that when Bayer purchased Sheffield Plastics and reorganized its Massachusetts manufacturing status was lost. A tax increment financing agreement allows a company with manufacturing status to receive and spread out property taxes due to improvements over 10 years. Bayer has plans to modify and upgrade machinery and buildings at both the Silver St. and Salisbury Rd. locations. The investments will support expansion into new products and new markets. The company's proposal commits to adding five full-time, permanent jobs within two years and growing their workforce by approximately 25 new jobs over 10 ten years. Duff agreed to provide the exact amounts of the planned improvements by April 30.

Discussion ensued on how the program works. The deadline for the Town to file the application for the agreement is in June. Sheffield Plastics will provide a certificate of good standing from the Department of Revenue to be attached to the applications.

By the second meeting, Duff had submitted a proposed plan for improvements. The proposal includes the completion of \$1,000,000 in new improvements over the next 10 years for which a property-tax exemption is being requested. In years 1-5, the exemption for the increased value would be at 50 percent; in years 6-8 25 percent; and years 9-10 10 percent. Administrator Kellogg said that, at the current tax rate, the exempted property taxes over 10 years would total slightly less than \$18,000.

The Board voted to approve the plan, subject to Town Meeting approval.

### ***Regular meeting, May 17***

This was the first meeting for newly elected Selectman David Smith, Jr. Clerk Hannum welcomed Smith to the Board. The Board reorganized, with Hannum as Chair and Selectman Wood as Board Clerk.

Public hearing: Hannum opened a public hearing on the application of Verizon for a utility pole installation on the east side of South Undermountain Rd. for a support wire. The pole number will be T.24S/E/86-84. The Board approved the pole.

Barnard Park: Administrator Kellogg explained that due to a recent storm two of the six memorial trees in Barnard Park were damaged and need to be removed. While assessing the damage, it was noted that all six trees are Norway maples and have begun to show signs of decay. Kellogg recommended that the trees be removed and replaced. Barrett Tree Service has given a price of \$4,800 to take down and clean up all six trees. The Town would purchase six new trees at an estimated cost of \$3,000, and the Sheffield Tree Project will plant the new trees. Joe Wilkinson has volunteered to remove the stumps, JTC Trucking has volunteered to dispose of the stumps and Wayne Wilkinson has volunteered to install bases for the flagpole and monuments. Kellogg suggested that a portion of the donation in lieu of taxes from Berkshire School be used to purchase the new trees. The Board agreed with the plan and so voted.

Mark Bachetti, representing the American Legion, said that the members of the Legion had voted unanimously to replace the trees, hopefully before Memorial Day. A rededication ceremony could be held at the same time as the Memorial Day ceremony.

School superintendent: Dr. Michael Singleton, SBRSD superintendent, gave a report on what's happening in the District, where the current student enrollment is 901. Singleton talked about several issues, including cyber bullying, home schooling, staffing and staff certification, special education, charter school, transportation aid, nutrition, MCAS scores and physical education. He also read a memo that he sent to the School Committee recommending closing the Monterey School, based on safety issues with the location and the building. He reported that the School Committee has passed the request onto the Monterey Board of Selectmen, asking for a Special Town Meeting vote to close the school at the end of this school year.

Pam Kenyon, principal of Undermountain Elementary School, and Glen Devoti, principal of Mt. Everett Regional High School, were present to discuss goals for their schools. Paul O'Brien, supervisor of technology, was also present.

Other business: Jason Smith has resigned from the Fire Dept., and the

Board voted to send him a letter of thanks for his service to the Town.

After hearing from Jennifer Wheeler that Salisbury Bank has said her wedding guests could park on its property, the Board granted permission for Wheeler to hold her wedding at the Covered Bridge on October 10, with the following conditions: no food, no decorations and the public will be allowed to continue with normal activities at the bridge.

Selectman Smith stated that he is looking forward to serving the Town and thanked the voters for their support.

Chairman Hannum noted that she is serving on the Long-Range Capital Planning Commission for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District.

She also reminded residents that the Town is a member of the Berkshire County Mosquito Control program and residents may call them to spray their properties.

Administrator Kellogg stated that Town Reports are in and may be picked up at the Town Hall. The on-line version will be available soon. He noted that Tony Gulotta and others have begun a Sheffield Business Association. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact Tony. [See story on page 5.]

Erna Lampman has applied for a common victualler's license to sell hot dogs and snacks at the Farmers' Market of Sheffield. Health Inspector George Olen has inspected and approved the mobile cart. The Board approved such a license for each Friday from May 21 to Oct. 8.

### ***Working meeting regarding miscellaneous business, June 2***

The Board made an emergency appointment of Robert Weitz to the Board of Assessors, not to exceed one year. Sarah Bell has requested re-appointment as Town Counsel for FY2011.

The Board discussed creating a policy and procedures manual for itself. Selectmen Hannum and Wood expressed concerns that all correspondence to the Board receive a response. Administrator Kellogg will distribute copies of policy manuals from other towns.

The Town received a \$20,000 grant from Federal stimulus funds to install insulation in the Town Hall and insula-

*Continued on page 14*





### UP, UP AND AWAY

There's still time to sign up for Kops & Kids 2010, the Sheffield Police Dept.'s annual program at the Town Park. The one-week program begins July 19 and is free for participants. The program is geared toward 5<sup>th</sup> graders but also accepts students in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

A ropes course, as seen at left, is the centerpiece of the program. Facilitated by trained and certified police officers, it aims to build self-esteem and trust. Everyone can participate regardless of physical ability or athletic experience. Campers start with field games and move to a low ropes course and then a high ropes course.

Lunch is provided each day, and on the last day, family and friends are invited to join in for a picnic.

The Kops & Kids program has taken place for more than 10 years. It's funded entirely through donations. If you'd like to contribute, contact the Town of Sheffield.

## MINUTES, continued from page 13

tion and storm windows at the Police Station. Discussion ensued regarding asking Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to administer the grant for a fee. Administrator Kellogg will follow up.

The solid waste hauling contract is out to bid. Administrator Kellogg suggested that the Transfer Station permit fee be set after the hauling bids are opened and the two options he proposed were discussed. Letters regarding the permits will be mailed to residents on July 1, with the fee due on Aug. 15.

Administrator Kellogg will be holding annual evaluation meetings with department heads to determine merit raises. Pay increases will be 1 percent cost of living and 1 percent merit. The Board granted Kellogg a 2 percent pay increase, based on his evaluation in December, to be effective July 1, 2010.

The Town is obligated under a deed agreement with the American Legion to provide storage for the Legion. Discussion ensued regarding the options. The Board decided to offer the American Legion \$2,000 a year for five years to meet the requirement.

Administrator Kellogg said that a meeting will be held with the Police Department on June 4 to negotiate a two-year contract. Chairman Hannum will also attend.

Administrator Kellogg, Chief McGarry, Highway Superintendent

Ed Lord, Noah Parsons, Donald Perry and two employees from Mass DOT met to look at the crosswalks and curb cuts on Main St. in front of the Village Green. Mass DOT has agreed to flag its right of way and consider installing a new curb cut in front of the Stone Store. The Town would be responsible for installing a new sidewalk on the east side of the road. A new crosswalk will be installed across Route 7 in front of the Stone Store. A site visit for the Board is scheduled for June 7.

The Board discussed holding a retreat in July.

Administrator Kellogg updated the Board on the work at the Covered Bridge canoe launch, which must be completed by October. The Board will schedule a site visit.

### Regular meeting, June 7

Traffic: Catherine Miller expressed concern with traffic throughout Town, including vehicle speed, disregard for stop signs, lack of safe crosswalks and trailer trucks parked on the side of Route 7. Discussion ensued.

The Board, along with the Disabilities Commission, held a site visit to view the sidewalks and crosswalks along Main St. (Route 7). Until Mass DOT can install a permanent sidewalk on the east side of the street, the town will see about installing a temporary sidewalk. The Board voted to

send a letter to Mass DOT asking them to keep the sidewalk and crosswalk in their plans for reconstruction of Route 7 and to inquire about the possibility of installing a flashing yellow light.

Other business: Administrator Kellogg explained that Wired West is a group looking to band together Western Massachusetts towns to make fiber optic technology available to all residents. Its first meeting is on June 26. The Board chose Selectman Wood as the town's delegate and Paul O'Brien as the alternate.

An application was received from Don Reinauer and Frances Roth for a curb cut on the corner of Salisbury Rd. and Barnum St. Selectman Wood moved to approve the curb cut as submitted, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

Joan Brooks will not be seeking reappointment to the Council on Aging. The Board voted to send her a letter of thanks for her service. Chairman Hannum read the list of applicants and vacant positions for FY2011. Action on the appointments will take place at the June 21 meeting.

Administrator Kellogg noted that this would be the Town's 10<sup>th</sup> year with the South Berkshire Household Hazardous Waste Program, whose price has not increased. He recommended that the Board approve the contract for FY2011, and they did so unanimously.



## PLANNING BOARD NEWS

Between April 15 and June 10, the Planning Board conducted the following business:

It accepted several Form A Applications (approval not required to divide property):

On May 13, Francis Roth and Donald and Judith Reinauer, represented by Mike Parsons from Kelly, Granger, Parsons and Assoc., Inc., a civil engineering firm, applied to divide their property. Board members approved the plans.

On May 27, Trevor and Melanie Williamson, represented by Mark Reynolds from Kelly, Granger, Parsons and Assoc., Inc., filed regarding their property on the north side of Berkshire School Rd. The purpose of this Form A application was not to divide the property but to correct a procedural error. Attorney Dennis Downing explained that before the subdivision control law was enacted in the 1960s, properties were divided using a sketch. After, Form A applications with formal plans were supposed to be used. But with this property, a 1979 conveyance used a sketch. The Williamsons are selling the property and need to pass it forward with surveyed plans. Downing stated that both lots conform to today's zoning standards. The Board approved the application.

Also on May 27, Martin and Faith Canellakis, represented by Mark Reynolds from Kelly, Granger, Parsons applied to divide their property on the north side of Ford Hill Rd., into two lots. Board members approved the plans.

On June 10, Jon MacClaran, owner of property located at the corner of Route 7 and 7A, applied to split his property into two building lots, each approximately three acres. One of the lots would be vacant land and the second lot would have the existing house. The plan also requests a small portion of land to be sectioned out to address the neighboring driveway that encroaches onto the existing property. The Board approved the application.

At a public hearing on April 22 for public comment on two proposed amendments to the Sheffield Zoning Bylaws for the May 3 Town Meeting, Sheffield land owner Donna Parsons expressed concern about not being allowed to build on the flood plain. She is taxed for four building lots and is not allowed to build. She felt this is unfair. Richard Parsons said he is concerned about the conflicting numbers used to represent elevations governed by the bylaws. Tom Carmody, Town Building Inspector, responded that from now on the Town will use the elevation as submitted by applicants, based on their own engineer's assessment.

Town Administrator Joe Kellogg stated that an amendment to the town bylaws has been proposed because of the Parsons' concerns.

Board members Margaret Martin and David Smith, Sr., were re-elected in the town elections in early May. The Board re-elected as officers Chris Tomich, chair; David Smith, Sr., vice chair; Timothy Fulco, treasurer; Margaret Martin, Secretary.

## COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

The first tax bill for the new fiscal year is due Aug. 2. Bills are going out and should be received at the end of June.

The Board discussed taking a proactive approach on its projects: 1) Finish sign by-law; 2) Re-write Form A criteria; and 3) Assess and possibly rework the relationship between the General Business District and the Commercial District. Members estimate the work will take about two-years to complete.

On May 27, David Smith, Sr., the Board's delegate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, reported on issues that came up during the last meeting. The Wind Power bill came up in the legislature last week and almost passed. Rene Wood, Bob Mott and Eleanor Tillinghast were in Boston to demonstrate against it. BRPC voted to send another letter to the legislature showing that it is opposed to the loss of local rule, from which Smith abstained. It also discussed the Big Y project in Lee.

Business Association: Chris Tomich described a meeting in May about re-establishing the Sheffield Business Association. Julie Hannum, Joe Kellogg and Smitty Pignatelli were there. John Casey was the Health Insurance representative from Pittsfield. Tony Gulotta introduced the program and explained how the original Association was started by his dad. There was discussion of creating a kiosk, scholarships for students and a pool for health insurance.

—Nadia Milleron,  
Planning Board secretary

## TOWN CLERK NEWS

**Voter registration.** There will be a State Primary on Tues., Sept. 14. The deadline to register to vote or change your party affiliation is Wed., Aug. 25. For your convenience, the office will stay open until 8pm that evening.

Registration is available year round. Contact the Town Clerk's office, or visit the Secretary of State's website at [www.sec.state.ma.us/ele](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele).

**Sporting/hunting and fishing licenses.** Licenses for 2010 are available, as well as archery, waterfowl and primitive arms stamps. Please provide a previous year's license or copy of a hunter safety certificate for a sporting/hunting license. Note that requests for antlerless deer permits (doe tags) must be post-marked by July 16.

For more information, go to [www.sheffield.ma.gov](http://www.sheffield.ma.gov); click on

"Town Departments," then "Town Clerk" and follow the link "Hunting information for Sheffield area" to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife website ([www.mass.gov/masswildlife](http://www.mass.gov/masswildlife)).

**Dog licenses.** Please remember if you have a dog six months of age or older and you live in Sheffield at least 30 days of the year, you are required to license your dog. The fee is \$10 for intact dogs, \$5 for spayed/neutered dogs. If you haven't obtained a license by May 1, a fine of \$25 per dog will be imposed. Recently acquired dogs can be licensed at any time during the year. For further information, contact the office at 229-7000, ext. 151.

**Attention business owners.** If you hold a trade name certificate ("d.b.a."), please be sure that it is still current. Certificates are good for four years from the application date. If you hold one, take a look and see if you are due for renewal. If you are uncertain or have a question, call the office for assistance.



## **FROM THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

At its April and May meetings, the Conservation Commission conducted the following business:

**Property on Polikoff Rd.:** An enforcement order had been issued to Ed Ustico for unapproved work done on this property in 2006, which is still in effect. Ustico stated that he wishes to plant more crops closer to the wet area at the rear of the property. The Commission had walked the property along with Mark Stinson of the state Dept. of Environmental Protection. The site shows varying degrees of wetness at different times of year. The Commission stated that Ustico needs to submit a Notice of Intent for a project likely to affect a protected wetland with detailed plans for the site. In a later meeting, a letter was sent to Ustico asking him to stop work.

**Property on Rt. 41:** Jason Miner from The Nature Conservancy stated that his organization is proposing a conservation restriction for property at 1786 Undermountain Rd. that would prohibit any use other than agriculture or nature conservation. The property was formerly a commercial orchard and is within the Schenob Brook Area of Critical Environmental Concern. In addition, it is a state Bio Map core habitat and the state Dept. of Conservation and Recreation has labeled it a scenic view area. Although this area is not technically within the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission, Miner stated that it is normal procedure to get such approval. The Commission agreed that this is an acceptable project.

**Senior Center project:** The Commission received a letter from White Engineering saying that its survey had found the site was beyond the 100-foot buffer zone and outside of the floodplain.

**Property at 692 County Rd.:** A public hearing for a Request for Determination of Applicability of the wetlands regulations was held for Peter and Margaret Martin, wishing to build a screened porch over an existing deck. The site is within 50 feet of Ironworks Brook. All access is over the existing driveway and established walkways. The screened in porch would be built over the exact footprint of the existing structure. There will be no gutters added to the roof and no additional foundation. The Commission determined the regulations did apply and that the work could proceed on the condition that no equipment be driven onto the site and only hand tools be used during construction.

**Property on 1375 North Main St.:** A public hearing for a Notice of Intent was held for Peter Neofytides, regarding demolition of an existing structure and its replacement with new 80x40-foot building. Jeffrey Collingwood of Civil Architectural Design was present for the applicant. Crushed stone will be placed around the perimeter of the new structure so drainage goes into the ground. Water coming off the roof will go through gutters into a gallery of infiltrators into the ground. The present septic system passes title V requirements. Any slurry that remains from the old structure will be removed and taken offsite. In addition, the site has compensatory floodplain, which will be preserved in the event a larger septic is needed in the future. There will be no drains in the paved area, and the direction of the drainage is to the west, away from Rt. 7. The Commission approved the application with the condi-

tion that any slurry be contained within straw bales.

**Property on 245 North Undermountain Rd. (Berkshire School):** Dave Pickart and Griffin Ryder of Vanasse, Hangen, Brustlin, Inc., and Tim Fulco stated that the first phase of the proposed project is to demolish two buildings, Glenny House and Memorial Hall. The demolition is scheduled to take place the middle of July and should take four weeks. The site will then be prepared for new buildings, which will be a separate project. There will be some shallow, graveled grading within the buffer of a perennial stream. The graded area will be stabilized with an erosion control seed mix, and any required filling will be done with fill stockpiled on the site.

The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program has given its approval. The project site contains rare species habitat, and a snake protection fence will be put in. A compost filter tube will be used for silt fencing, and existing catch basins will be protected with silt sacks. Any equipment will be brought in on a stabilized pad. There will be the removal of one tree within 100 feet of the maintained lawn.

Demolition debris will be tested to see if it is hazardous and removed from the site. Materials that can be salvaged will be. A project manager will be on site to monitor all work. The fire department had already been consulted regarding fire access issues.

The Commission voted to approve the application with the conditions that silt barriers be in place prior to the start of any work, that no equipment be allowed to leak fluids on the site and that the Conservation Commission be granted access to the site.

**Property at 24 Maple Ave.:** A public hearing for a Request for Determination of Applicability was held for Gay Tucker, wishing to enclose and winterize a screened-in porch. The room's perimeter will conform to the porch footings. Since Tucker wants to include additional work in this project, another site visit will be required and the hearing was continued.

**Property at 200 East Rd.:** A public hearing for a Request for Determination of Applicability was held for Steven Winton, who wants to build a new subsurface sewage disposal system to replace the existing failed system with a combination of alternative technology systems, was continued.

In other business, Commissioner James Collingwood stated that Ken Cooper had contacted him regarding the feasibility of putting fill around the foundation of his house. A site visit would be scheduled.

The Commission received letters notifying it that aquatic vegetation was being treated at Perlman and Mill Ponds.

Following up on a letter from Tician Papahristou about concerns over work being done on an adjacent property, the Commission contacted Mark Bachetti, who is doing the construction. The work is outside the 200-foot buffer zone, so it is outside of the jurisdiction of the Commission.

It came to the attention of the Commission that equipment was being stored on the edge of the bank of the Schenob Brook on property of James Zucco/South County Pool Service at 326 Salisbury Rd. A letter was sent requesting that the Commission be allowed to inspect the site.



## AWAKEN HEALING ARTS OPENS IN SHEFFIELD CENTER

On Memorial Day, a little oasis of healing and calm opened up next to Silk's in the center of town. Called Awaken Healing Arts, it is owned by Julie Brady and Audrey Herrick. The staff is rounded out by Joyce Schneider, from Ashley Falls, who is the group's acupuncturist.

The center offers services in acupuncture, massage, reflexology, reiki and life and business coaching. There is also a boutique at the front of the shop, featuring locally created and fair trade goods like natural clothing, body care products, small gifts and accessories.

The three practitioners have trained at different schools, which enables them to offer a variety of styles and approaches. Audrey is a reflexologist and a reiki master, while Julie is certified in massage and coaching. "My massage work is custom-tailored to what I feel from a person's body," says Julie. "I do myofascial massage, Swedish, deep tissue and a couple of other things that I've learned along the way."

Julie hails from Baltimore and moved to Sheffield four years ago. "My in-laws are in Dover Plains," she says. "I wanted to be near them, but I needed the culture of the



*Awaken Healing Arts on the green in Sheffield center*

Berkshires."

Julie met Audrey, her neighbor, right after she moved. They became friends and then business partners. "We'd both been doing services out of our homes," says Julie. Over time they saw that Sheffield had a need. "You have to go to Great Barrington to get these kinds of services in one place."

Awaken's primary focus, says Julie, is not on a spa experience, but on self-care. "We're interested in educating the entire family about taking care of themselves." Children are welcome. "We all have young children, and have treated them since they were born," says Julie. "We offer free services to kids under 12 who come with

paying customers."

Julie has also been an interior designer for the last 15 years, and she brought those skills to Awaken's décor. "We have two treatment rooms, and the walls are glazed bright colors, with all natural woods," she says. "It smells delicious." Near the entrance is a little dish containing slips of paper with the thought of the day.

"We've been getting a very warm reception from community," says Julie. "We made what I'd projected for a month in our first two weeks."

Services are by appointment Sunday through Saturday. The boutique is open Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 4pm and Saturday from 10am to 4pm. Awaken's phone number is 229-2066. Or check out the new venture's website at [awakenhealingarts.com](http://awakenhealingarts.com).

—Ellen Weiss

## LOCAL PRODUCE AT THE FARMERS' MARKET

July and August bring the bounty of Berkshire-grown produce to the Sheffield Farmers Market, where 10 local farms bring their harvest every Friday from 3:30 to 6:30pm. First come greens, then root crops like turnips and radishes, then the foods that come from flowers like peas, beans, cucumbers, squash, tomatoes, and finally corn. Discover what it is like to eat seasonally and enjoy the terroir of the Berkshires this summer. Celebrate our community by eating the food we grow here.


Terroir is the particular taste the soil, water, and climate of a place impart to the food that's grown there. In the Berkshires we grow rich, nutty greens—dandelion, arugula, sorrel, lettuces, spinach,

kale, chard, mustard, turnip, watercress, collard, broccoli rabe, mache, chicory and more. Each green has its season, the time when it has the most delicious flavor and texture. Eat them raw, saute them or steam them, add them to pasta, or stir fry them.

In addition to produce, you can find locally grown meat and eggs at the market, plus baked goods, flowers and a knife sharpener/craftsman.


The Farmers Market is held in the parking lot of the Old Parish Church, with ample parking for shoppers in the Town Hall parking lot. For more information about the Sheffield Farmers Market visit [www.thesheffieldfarmersmarket.com](http://www.thesheffieldfarmersmarket.com)

—Billie Best



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## LAND TRUSTS JOIN ON 'CORRIDOR'

The Sheffield Land Trust is joining with the Egremont Land Trust on a major campaign to conserve more than 2,000 acres of farmland, forest and wildlife areas in the northwest part of Sheffield and southeast part of Egremont.

The joint project is Phase II of the "Sheffield-Egremont Agricultural, Ecological and Scenic Corridor." With some of the most unfragmented fields and forests in the area, the current phase of the project encompasses land along Guilder Hollow, Jug End, Lime Kiln, Rebellion and Sheffield-Egremont roads, as well as along Route 41. The total cost of Phase II is \$4.5 million, of which the land trusts must raise \$2 million from individuals, business and foundations. The remainder of the acquisition cost will come from state and federal sources.

To raise the money, the two land trusts are establishing a \$500,000 Challenge Fund that will match gifts, includ-

ing multi-year pledges, on a one-to-one basis.

Some of the land in the Corridor has already been conserved through the efforts of the land trusts. Phase I of the project included 165 acres of field, forest and farm housing on Bow Wow Rd., 130 acres of Quarry Hill Farm on Sheffield-Egremont Rd. and 58 acres of the Lime Kiln Rd. Wildlife Connector, acquired by the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Phase II builds on these protected lands and connects to more than 5,000 additional acres already protected, as part of the Appalachian Trail and Mt. Everett and Jug End state reserves,



This aerial view of the "Corridor" terrain shows Maple Shade Farm on the Sheffield-Egremont Rd. in the foreground and Lime Kiln Rd. snaking off toward Mt. Everett.

wildlife management areas and privately conserved land.

For more information or to contribute, contact the Sheffield Land Trust at 229-0234, shefland@bcn.net or P.O. Box 940, Sheffield, MA 01257, and visit [www.sheffieldland.org](http://www.sheffieldland.org).

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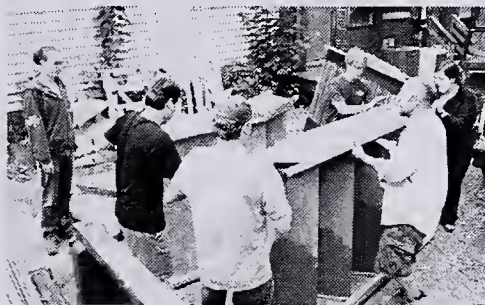
# LAND TRUST EVENTS FROM A BUSY JUNE

## 'Gondoliers' performance a rousing success

The Blue Hill Troupe's benefit performance of Gilbert & Sullivan's "The Gondoliers" on June 12 raised almost \$20,000 for the Sheffield and Egremont Land Trusts' Corridor Project and brought acclamation from the audience as well.

Volunteers from the community laid the groundwork for the show over a six month period, and the well-rehearsed Troupe arrived (all 88 of them) after a three week run in New York City with their sets, props, costumes and camaraderie and in less than 48 hours put up a top-notch production at the restored Mahaiwe Theater.

Members of the Troupe found the theater the perfect venue for their production. "The team at the Mahaiwe gave invaluable help," said Pat Elsbach, one of the Sheffield Land Trust's representatives on the Benefit Committee. "They provided publicity expertise, kept track of ticket sales and of course helped when we set up the show. We also owe a special thanks to Flynn Pianos for the grand piano and Collingwood Transportation for the dumpster, as well as the Record, Eagle and Kwik Print for their support."



With Troupe members, Curtis VonRueden and Travis Daly from Mt. Everett move the set, which was donated to the school.

### The Benefit Committee

Ursula Cliff, Sally Cook, Patricia Elsbach, Jenny Hersch, Wendy Linscott, Kathy Orlando & Ginger Schwartz.

### The Honorary Committee

Trudy and Tad Ames, Karin and George Beebe, Lila Berle, Kathy and Neil Chrisman, Ursula and Walter Cliff, Mary and James Nicoll Cooper, Hilery Somers Deely and Philip Deeling, Sen. Benjamin Downing, Rachel Fletcher, Marion Gilliam, Deann Halper, Jane Iredale and Bob Montgomery, Sheryl Lechner and Frank Lowenstein, Wendy McCain, Buzz and Robin McGraw, Mary Ann Miles and Elizabeth Montgomery, Mary Ann and Bob Norris, Rep. Smitty Pignatelli, Donna and Tony Prisendorf, Cherly and John Raifstanger, Deborah Reich and Frank Murphy, Diane and Neil Saxton, Abby Schroeder, Jule Schwartz, Susan and David Shapiro, Nancy Smith, Becky and Bob Thomas, Edith and Loet Velmans, Eleanor Tillinghast and Morgan Bulkeley IV, Marilyn and John Wightman, Alice and George Wislocki.

CATA (Community Access to the Arts) provided space for rehearsal and meals. Marcia Brolli, Marcia Friedman, Ruth Kolbert, Trudy Weaver Miller, Susan Rothschild and Rene Wood provided a pre-show feast for the cast and crew. Michael Ballon and Castle Street Cafe provided a reception after the show.

Catherine Miller arranged for community members to house and feed the entire cast and crew and Ursula Cliff the special dinners before the show for gala ticket holders.

The dozens of people pitching in to host the dinners and provide housing included Ann Barrett, Millie and Lo-Yi Chan, Cliff and her husband Walter, Mary and Nic Cooper, Patricia and Peter Elsbach, Marcia Friedman, Juliette and Tom Haas, Bobbie Hallig, Miller and her husband Jim, Susan Rothschild and Don Freedman, Ellen and Peter Rowntree, Ginger and Arthur Schwartz, Appy and John Stookey Becky and Bob Thomas and Hester Velmans and Peter Cherneff,

The Berkshire Theater Festival and Tom Ingersoll helped fill in gaps in costumes and props that were discovered at the last minute. Then whirlwind of activity continued Sunday morning when the set was struck and donated to Mt. Everett Regional High School, where it will be used in student productions and vocational education classes. Leftover food was donated to the Sheffield Food Program.

"We are truly grateful to all the people and businesses who helped us put on this show," said Pat. "It was a real community effort."

For more on the Corridor Project, see the story on page 18.

## New officers, board members elected at Annual Meeting

The Land Trust held its Annual Meeting under a tent in a field overlooking Maple Shade Farm and Mt. Everett on June 26. The event, the usual potluck picnic, was organized by Ruth Kolbert.

At the meeting, two new board members were elected: Jennifer Gaenzle-Smith and Duncan Levin. Sally Cook, Jim Larkin, Bob Thomas, Don Ward, John Wightman were re-elected.

The meeting was John Wightman's last as president. After eight years, he stepped down. Susan Rothschild was elected the new president. Pat Elsbach also stepped down after 13 years as the organization's secretary. Andrea Scott was elected the new secretary.



Passing the baton: John Wightman, Andrea Scott, Susan Rothschild and Pat Elsbach.

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## HISTORICAL SOCIETY: EXHIBITS HONOR THE WRITTEN WORD

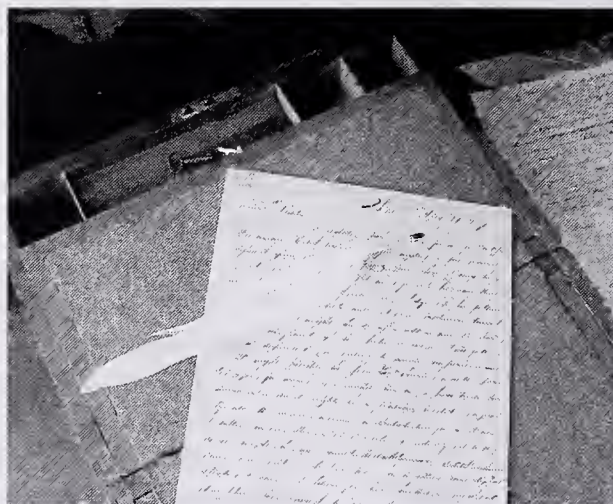
"I take pen in hand to write you . . ." So might we have started a letter 50 years ago. But now we zip off an email or twitter or Blackberry. What is lost?

Two new Society exhibits illuminate the question. One, "19th Century Correspondence in Sheffield," at the Dan Raymond House, centers on the Little Family letters. The companion show, "ABCs of Letter Writing: The Art & History of 19th Century Correspondence" at the Old Stone Store, focuses on the art and materials of letter writing.

The collection of Little family letters, written between 1807 and 1837 to and from family in Connecticut, are the words of everyday life — of health and death and accidents in the busy-ness of a family in our small western Massachusetts community. Maria Little, a sometimes frantic young mother, writes to her mother, sisters, brother-in-law, not with grace, but with a need to stay in touch. As the years pass she (and others) complain of frail health, small gripes, events in the community—just as we would today. The exhibit is open through October.

The exhibit at the Old Stone Store, open through July 11, displays quills, metal nibs, Waterman fountain pens, paper, ink, ink wells and desks—all the paraphernalia that accompanied a man or woman's correspondence. Things we don't think about required considerable work. For instance, here's a period ink recipe: "Cut hawthorne branches. Soak 8 days, then crush. Boil. Add wine. Hang in a wine bladder until dry. Reconstitute with more wine."

The shows were curated by Historical Society Trustee Kathy Tetro, Catherine Miller, Society Administrator Joanna Jennings and



antique dealers Samuel Herrup, Linda Rosen, and Veta Mott, drawing on materials from the Society's own collection, as well as the Mount, the Berkshire Historical Society and local book and antique dealers. More than 20 dealers and private owners shared materials from their collections.

The Historical Society's Dan Raymond House Museum, at 159 Main St., is open Tuesday-Thursday, 11-4 pm, Saturday, 1-4 pm, and by appointment. The Old Stone Store, at 137 Main St., is open weekends, Saturdays,

10-2pm, and Sunday, 11-3pm. The exhibits are free and open in the public. For more information about the Historical Society's exhibits and programs, call 229-2694 or visit [www.sheffieldhistory.org](http://www.sheffieldhistory.org).  
—Marcia Brolli

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS

**Correspondence exhibits** at the Dan Raymond House Museum and Old Stone Store. See above.

**Six Friends Art Exhibit.** Fri., July 16-Sun., Aug. 1 at the Old Stone Store. The Six Friends are Walter Bogard, Keith Davidson, Mary Davidson, Lois Ryder, Shellie Schneider, and Lois Van Cleef, who return for a fifth year to the Old Stone Store with new and recent artwork. The exhibit corresponds with the Housatonic Valley Art League's Annual Juried Art Competition in Dewey Memorial Hall, where more of the friends' work will be featured. Gallery hours: Saturdays and Sundays, 11-4 pm. There will be an opening reception on Sat., July 17, 1-3 pm.

**From Sheffield to Egremont: A House's Journey.** Sat., Aug. 7-Sun., Sept. 26 at the Old Stone Store. Marsha Ginsberg, a photographic artist and stage designer from New York City and Egremont, has documented in photographs and film clips the rescuing and subsequent moving and restoration of the ca. 1840 Conway House from Bow Wow Rd., Sheffield, to Jug End Rd., South Egremont. The house is thought to have been a stop on the Underground Railroad. A reception is planned.

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## KIWANIS NEWS AND EVENTS

**Golf.** The Golf Committee is hard at work preparing for our annual Golf Tournament at the Egremont Country Club on Fri., July 9. As usual it will be a shotgun start at noon, with "snack stops" at holes 8 and 11. Once again the delicious appetizer table will await the golfers after the 18 holes of play. An assortment of prizes will be offered in the raffle as the players enjoy a buffet dinner to complete the day. Contact David Smith, Jr., at 413-429-6872 or Fred Finkle at 229-3579 for team details. The fee is \$100 per player.

**Baseball.** The Little League season concludes with the All-Star matches on July 8, 10, 11, 12 and 14. Many more of the official contests were played on the Sheffield Town Park field since it was repaired and brought up to League standards. The Kiwanis Café (our refreshment trailer) was open for the more than 50 games in May and June.

**Singing.** On Sun., July 11, the first group of singers arrives at the Berkshire Choral Festival. Kiwanis provides cocktails before dinner each Sunday

through Thursday, with the "bar" reopening at 9:30pm after evening rehearsals. The event this year has moved to the new sports arena on the Berkshire School campus. (See the story on page 3.) For the four Saturday festival performances, Kiwanis provides refreshments before the concerts and during intermission. Our crews will also handle parking, with new configurations in the plan for the change in venue.

**Other news.** The Ladder Sign Committee has been working on updating the directional notices at the junction of routes 7 and 7A and where County Rd. and Hewins St. meet. The committee has made contacts with businesses in the areas and two new signs will be completed this summer.

Ten Kiwanis members representing the Lee, Pittsfield, and Sheffield clubs attended the International Convention in Las Vegas on June 23-26. For some reason that venue has added appeal.

Meanwhile Sheffield Kiwanians

## TALKS ON COLONIAL LIFE

The Bidwell House Museum in Monterey is offering a series of talks on Saturdays this summer by John Demos, Samuel Knight Professor of American History Emeritus at Yale University, on everyday life in the colonial period, with special emphasis on 18<sup>th</sup> century New England..

Coming lectures are "The Social World: Getting Along With Others" on July 10; "The Cultural World: Ways and Means of Communication" on Aug. 14; and "The Supernatural World: Religion, Magic, Witchcraft, and 'Wonders'" on Aug. 28.

The talks are at 10am at the Tyringham Union Church, Main Rd., Tyringham. The suggested donation of \$15 benefits the museum. To register, call the museum at 528-6888 or go to [www.bidwellhousemuseum.org](http://www.bidwellhousemuseum.org).

continue to host the Breaking Bread soup kitchen at the American Legion Hall and do the monthly roadside cleanup along Route 7 at the Sheffield/Great Barrington town lines. —Dick Goodwin

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### Berkshire Writers' Short Literary Gems

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**Saturday, August 7 at 4:30 p.m.**



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## MUMBET AND FREEDOM AT ASHLEY HOUSE

While America waged a War for Independence, in the Ashley House in Sheffield another revolution was taking place. Here, a young woman known as Bett (later "Mumbet") worked and lived and thought. She thought about her own life, and the life of the new nation forming around her. She thought about what freedom meant to someone like herself, a slave, a powerless woman in the home of a powerful man.

Contemporary accounts tell us that Col. John Ashley was the kindest of men, but five people remained enslaved in his household, an irony we find hard to comprehend today. It was a time when few people had a say in their own lives and destinies, a time



Ashley House in 1929

of indentured servants, indebtedness to landholders, and a lack of education or even transportation to take one to a better place. Even given 18th century realities, Mumbet and the other slaves—Lizzie, Zack, John and

Harry—had less chance than most to change their own lives.

But this other revolution was taking place and still is taking place today. It started with the Sheffield Declaration of 1773, discussed by Ashley and his friends, that "mankind in a state of nature are equal, free, and independent of each other, and have a right to the undisturbed enjoyment of their lives, their liberty and property." It took spark in a young woman's mind as she

## COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY AT THE ASHLEY HOUSE

Tues., Aug. 10, 9am-12 noon. Join the Ashley House staff and volunteers for a morning of paint scraping and weeding. Tools and beverages provided. Call Sean Cowhig, superintendent, in advance for information at 413-298-3239, ext. 3020 or email at [scowhig@ttor.org](mailto:scowhig@ttor.org).

transferred that sentiment into her own hopes and life. Thus it was that a young woman of about 35, known as Mumbet, walked out the door of the Ashley house and began her own journey to freedom.

In 1781, Mumbet prevented Mrs. Ashley, a woman known to have a heavy hand, from striking Lizzie with a hot shovel and was hit instead. Having overheard the discussions of Ashley and his friends, she decided the promise of equality applied to her, too. Theodore Sedgwick, a Sheffield lawyer, took her case.

A jury heard the case in 1781 in Great Barrington and decided that Col. Ashley had illegally detained Mumbet. With that decision, she became the first black woman to be set free under the new Massachusetts constitution. Col. Ashley paid the imposed fine and pleaded for Mumbet to return, but she instead took the name Elizabeth Freeman and went to work for the Sedgwick family. She and her daughter set up their own household as well. She died in 1829 and is buried in Stockbridge in the Sedgwick family plot.

We remain in awe of the courage it took for a lone woman to stand up to the richest man in town. Over time, her significance has sometimes been forgotten, downplayed as the men around her received history's credit for the results of her case. Her case didn't end slavery in the state, but set the groundwork and precedent for the Quock Walker case that did: small steps on that road to freedom.

The Ashley House is celebrating this extraordinary woman on Aug. 21 (see box on page 23). Elizabeth Freeman's words resonate still today: "Anytime, anytime while I was a slave, if one minute's freedom had been offered to me, and I had been told I must die at the end of that minute, I would have taken it, just to stand one minute on God's earth a free woman, I would."

*Adapted from remarks by Barbara Dowling at 2009's Mumbet Day*

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## MUMBET DAY CELEBRATIONS

August 21 is Mumbet Day at the Ashley House. This year, it's a Saturday. The Trustees of Reservations Ashley House, in collaboration with the Elizabeth Freeman Center, the African American Heritage Trail, Crow Flies Press and The Marketplace, will be hosting a day-long celebration of Elizabeth Freeman, also known as Mumbet.

From 12 to 2pm, there will be an open house at the Ashley House, featuring tours of the house and book signings with the authors of recent books about Elizabeth Freeman. One of these, *One Minute a Free Woman* by David Levinson and Emilie Piper, has just been published by the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area/African American Heritage Trail. It uses Freeman's life as a starting point to explore the lives of other African American families and communities in the region. Other authors will include Jama Liaz and Ann-Elizabeth Barnes with their new children's book about Mumbet, *A Free Woman on God's Earth*.

From 2 to 3:30, there will be a ceremony honoring Mumbet that will feature speakers (to be announced) and performers, including a brand-new performance about Mumbet's story by presentation by the Step, Dance and Drumline of Youth Alive, an arts program based in Pittsfield.

At 3:30, directly following the ceremony, join Jana Laiz and Ann-Elizabeth Barnes with Frances Jones-Sneed, Stephanie Wright and Zufan Bazzano, on the Walk For Freedom, a re-enactment of the walk Mumbet took from the Ashley House to the Sedgwick House on Main St. in the center of Sheffield. This four-mile pledge walk is a benefit for the Elizabeth

Freeman Center, a nonprofit organization based in Pittsfield that provides services and counseling to Berkshire County victims of domestic violence.

From 5:30 to 7, join us next door for dinner at The Marketplace Café. The \$30 admission includes dinner for a family of four and the Laiz/Barnes book. There will be music, drumming, a barbeque, book signing and original songs about Mumbet. Proceeds from the dinner and book also benefit the Elizabeth Freeman Center.

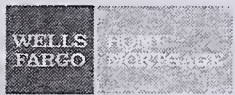
The Ashley House is at 117 Cooper Hill Rd. in Ashley Falls. For more information, call 229-8600. To pledge for the walk, visit [www.crowfliespress.com](http://www.crowfliespress.com) or call 528-3856.



*Youth Alive dancers perform at last year's Mumbet Day.*

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## Organizations & Businesses

### NEWS FROM BARTHOLOMEW'S COBBLE

**Bald eagle update.** "We've been seeing the eagle a lot carrying food to the nest," reports Rene Wendell, the Cobble conservation ranger. Recently the Mass Wildlife District Manager paid a visit to the eagle's nest to count the young and band the chicks. Inside the nest, high above the ground, he found two young healthy eaglets, along with a partially eaten fawn, a rabbit and a brown trout. Earlier that day, seasonal naturalist Jonathan Pierce had watched the eagle flying with difficulty, carrying something unusually large and heavy in its talons. It's Rene's guess that the fawn was already dead before the eagle carried it away. For these seasoned naturalists, this was a first!

**Possum momma.** Rene recently stopped his truck to remove a road-killed opossum from the road near the Cobble entrance. "When I nudged the carcass with a stick, I saw the belly moving," he

said. Inside the pouch were four baby possums waiting for their next meal. Rene called wildlife rehabilitator Linda Bowen in Falls Village, CT, for help. In the meantime, he says, "I wore them in a fanny pack. They went everywhere with me and I fed them with an eyedropper." The possums were delivered to Linda in fairly good condition, thanks to Rene's stint as a possum momma.

**Kids in a cottonwood.** School field trips have just wrapped up for the spring season. Third graders from Massachusetts and beyond visit the Cobble each year for a combined tour of the Ashley House and Bartholomew's Cobble, a real-life demonstration of their curriculum about Colonial lifestyles, changes in the land, and Mumbet's story. If there is time, Rene hikes classes all the way down to the Spero Loop to visit one of the largest cottonwood trees in Mas-



*The cottonwood tree*

sachusetts. The tree's hollowed out base invites the fearless to climb inside. Ten kids is the record so far!

**Bats need us.** Linda Bowen did a presentation at the Cobble titled "Bats 101." She showed slides of tiny bat pups she has nursed back to health and older bats she is conditioning to fly again. Bats are currently in decline, mostly due to white nose syndrome, a plague whose cause is still unknown. According to Linda, their decline could have severe implications for agriculture since pests would increase. She urged the audience to provide and safeguard bat homes and to volunteer as backyard monitors of bat populations. More information at: [http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/wildlife/living/living\\_with\\_bats.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/wildlife/living/living_with_bats.htm).



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BY APPT FRIDAYS



## EVENTS AT BARTHOLOMEW'S COBBLE & ASHLEY HOUSE

### Ashley House Guided Tours

Saturdays & Sundays through Oct 10, 12noon-4pm. Next door to Bartholomew's Cobble, visit the oldest house in the Berkshires. Tours at 10am, 11am, noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm. Adults \$6. Children, members and Sheffield residents free.

### Visitor Center & Natural History Museum

Open daily, 9am-4:30pm. Trails are open dawn to dusk daily. Sheffield residents & members: Free. Nonmember adult, \$5; child 6-12, \$1.

### Sunday Canoe Trip

Sun. July 11 & 18, Aug. 1, 8, 15, 29 8:30am-11:30am. On a guided paddle, explore the varied habitats of the winding Housatonic and watch for bald eagles. All equipment provided. Adults \$30, children \$15. Reduced price for members. Please pre-register.

### Reptile Day & Fun for Families

Sat. July 17, 10am-12noon. Learn to safely find and handle snakes and turtles with a naturalist. Ages 6 and up. Adult/child \$6; family \$15. Members \$5/\$10. Please pre-register.

### Live Birds of Prey with Tom Ricardi

Sat. July 31, 10am-12noon. Meet a wildlife rehabilitator, with hawks, owls, and a bald eagle. Adult \$10, child \$5. Members \$8/\$4. Please pre-register.

### Wild Mushroom I.D. & Tasting

Sat. Aug. 14, 9am-12noon. With John Wheeler, president of the Berkshire Mycological society, identify and ethically gather wild mushrooms for the table. \$20 per person. Please pre-register.

### Mumbet Day

Sat. Aug. 21, 12 noon open house, 2pm celebration. Join us to celebrate the legacy of one of Sheffield's most remarkable individuals. For a full description of the day's activities, see the story on page 23. All ages welcome. Free.

### Moonlight Paddle

Sun. Aug. 22, 7-9pm & Tuesday September 21, 6-8pm. Watch for beaver, bats and evening wildlife and the rising moon. All equipment provided. Dress warmly. Adults \$30, children \$15. Members \$24/\$10. Please pre-register.

### Beyond the Cobble

Mission & Mohicans Guided Walk: Fri., July 16, 10-11:30am and every month. The Mission House, Main St., Stockbridge, 413-298-3239 x3003. Explore Stockbridge early history on a one-mile guided walk and house tour. All ages welcome. Adult \$5, children up to 16 free.

Ashintully Garden: Open Wednesdays & Saturdays 1-5pm. Sodem Rd, Tyringham 413-298-3239. Free.

*Bartholomew's Cobble, a 329-acre property of The Trustees of Reservations with five miles of trails, is located on Weatogue Rd. in Ashley Falls. It's open year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset. The Visitor's Center is open 9am-4:30pm. From Rt. 7 in the center of Sheffield, travel south and turn right on Rt. 7A and follow for 0.5 mile. Turn right on*

*Rannapo Rd. and follow for 1.5 mile. Turn right on Weatogue Rd. to the entrance and parking on the left. Regular admission is free for members of the Trustees of Reservations and Sheffield residents. Non-members: \$5 adult, \$1 child. To register for events, call 229-8600 or email [bcobble@ttor.org](mailto:bcobble@ttor.org). Check the website for the latest: [www.thetrustees.org](http://www.thetrustees.org).*

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Pies will be judged on appearance, aroma, flakiness of the crust, and taste. Judges' decisions are final.

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### Category

☐ Junior (ages 17 or younger)

☐ Adult (18 to 59) ☐ Senior (60 and up)

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## FIRE LOG

— Rick Boardman, Chief

### APRIL

- 1 Fire alarm at the Sheffield Library. Time out: 3:41 pm. Time in: 3:55 pm.
- 12 Brush fire at 535 Polikoff Rd. Time out: 10:44 am. Time in: 11:38 am.
- 12 Traffic control for car accident. Time out: 4:26 pm. Time in: 4:58 pm.
- 15 Chimney fire at 119 S. Main St. Time out: 7:41 pm. Time in: 8:44 pm.
- 18 Fire alarm at Berkshire School. Time out: 3:38 pm. Time in: 3:55 pm.
- 29 Investigate wires burning at 46 S. Main St. Time out: 3:57 pm. Time in: 5:00 pm.

### MAY

- 1 Investigate 15 Main St. Time out: 9:40 am. Time in: 9:55 am.
- 2 Stand by for Great Barrington Fire Dept. during structure fire. Time out: 8:43 pm. Time in: 9:19

- 4 Multiple trees and wires down in storm. Time out: 4:05 pm. Time in: 11:30 pm.
- 14 CO detector at 29 Springhollow Lane. Time out: 10:59 a.m. Time in: 11:16 a.m.
- 15 CO detector at 635 Main St. Time out: 11:05 p.m. Time in: 11:22 pm.
- 19 Rescue injured hiker on Appalachian Trail. Time out: 10:14 pm. Time in: 3:02 am.
- 20 Smoke alarm at 175 Main St. Time out: 2:45 pm. Time in: 2:52 pm.
- 24 Traffic control at Rt. 7/Root Lane. Time out: 2:55 pm. Time in: 3:15 p.m.
- 27 Lifting assistance at 15 Squire Lane. Time out: 1:48 pm. Time in: 2:01 pm.
- 27 Wires on trees and tree on fire. Time out: 7:30 pm. Time in: 7:44 pm.
- 28 Oil spill from vehicle at Sheffield Post Office. Time out: 3:34 pm. Time in: 3:41 pm.

## The Sheffield Historical Society



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The **1774 Dan Raymond House Museum** offers exhibits & tours: Tuesday-Thursday, 11 am to 4 pm & Saturday, 1-4 pm.

Come explore the daily lives of common people from the Revolutionary generation onward, including the intriguing history of the Sheffield Tory for whom the house is named.

The **Mark Dewey Research Center** houses the town's early archives, including tax & real estate records, historic photographs, and genealogical research. Open year round, Monday & Friday 1:30-4 pm and by appointment.

Email: [mdrc@sheffieldhistory.org](mailto:mdrc@sheffieldhistory.org)

The **1834 Old Stone Store** located on the town green functions as the Society's gift shop and exhibition space.

Open weekends, Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm  
& Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm (April-Dec.)

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# Calendar Page

## July

- 3 Trinity United chicken barbeque (p. 8)
- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 5 INDEPENDENCE DAY (observed)
- 12 Library summer camp begins
- 13 Berkshire Choral Festival programs begin (p. 3)
- 16 Art League Juried Show reception (p. 6)
- 17 Six Friends show opening (p. 20)
- 19 Kops & Kids camp (p. 14)
- 23 Meeting House show opening (p. 6)
- 28 Paint and oil recycling (p. 11)

## August

- 3 Art League Member Show reception (p. 6)
- 6 Old Parish Antiques Show opens (p. 7)
- 7 Paint and oil recycling (p. 11)
- 7 Church Country Fair (p. 9)
- 11 Lecture on ethics in genetics (p. 8)
- 15 **DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER ISSUE**
- 27 Meeting House show opening (p. 6)

## September & October

- Sept. 6 LABOR DAY
- Sept. 11 Sheffield in Celebration & the Sheffield Fair
- Oct. 9 Church Country Silent Auction (p. 9)

See also the listings for Historical Society (p.20), Kiwanis (p. 21) and Bartholomew's Cobble (p. 25)

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## ONGOING CALENDAR ITEMS

Meetings or events that occur less than weekly are noted with a week number – i.e. “1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>” indicates meetings on the first and third times that day occurs in the month. \* indicates appointment needed. Town functions listed first.

*Meals on Wheels, Mon-Fri, except holidays*

### Mondays:

*Building Inspector, Town Hall, 7am-12 noon*  
*Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 7pm, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>*  
*Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> only for winter)*  
*Board of Health, Town Hall, 7pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>*  
*Food Assistance Program, Old Parish Church, 9-10:30am*  
*Foot care clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Ctr., 1<sup>st</sup>*

### Tuesdays:

*Building Inspector, 7am-12 noon*  
*Council on Aging, 5pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>*  
*Ashley Falls Historic District Commission, Town Hall, 6:30pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>*  
*Industrial Development Commission, Town Hall, 7:30pm, last*  
*Senior Center physical fitness, 9am*  
*Children's Story Hour, Library, 10am*  
*Senior Center "Lawn Chair Movie," 11:30am*  
*Kiwanis Club, The Bridge Restaurant, 6:30pm*

### Wednesdays:

*Senior Center Knitting Group, 3pm, 1<sup>st</sup>*

### Thursdays:

*Planning Board, Town Hall, 7pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>*  
*Commission on Disabilities, 1<sup>st</sup>*  
*Building Inspector, Thurs. 3pm-6 pm*  
*Senior Center physical fitness, 9am*  
*\* Blood Pressure Clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9am-12pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>*  
*\* Hearing Testing available, Senior Center, 3<sup>rd</sup>*

### Fridays

*Building Inspector, 7-10am*  
*Farmers' market, 3:30-6:30pm*

### Saturdays:

*Dewey Hall Folk Music Series, 8pm, 1<sup>st</sup>*  
*Senior Center Knitting Group, 11am, 3<sup>rd</sup>*

### Sundays:

*Men's Group, Old Parish, 7:45am, 2<sup>nd</sup>*

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# Sheffield TIMES

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